

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Carol A. Murray, Commissioner

For Immediate Release

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EARTH DAY RECOGNIZED WITH ADDITION TO MISSION STATEMENT
NHDOT BUSY PRACTICING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation's "mission statement" has caught up with the agency's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship. In recognition of Earth Day 2003 (April 22), NHDOT Commissioner Carol Murray has authorized the addition of the words "environmentally sensitive" to the agency's mission statement, which now reads:

To plan, construct and maintain the best possible transportation system and State facilities in the most efficient, environmentally sensitive and economical manner, utilizing quality management techniques consistent with available resources and mandated controls.

Environment Bureau Administrator Bill Hauser says the revised mission statement more accurately portrays the NHDOT's philosophy and current practices in both its maintenance of the existing transportation system and in the development of new projects.

"It really is what we do every day and unfortunately was not reflected in our mission statement," Hauser says. "It's appropriate that on Earth Day we reaffirm our commitment to protecting New Hampshire's environment."

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation was the first state transportation agency in the country to begin developing an Environmental Management System (EMS) to improve upon the ongoing actions of the agency that may impact the environment. Last fall Commissioner Murray signed a memorandum of understanding with the Lake Chocorua Association, a first-of-its-kind agreement in New Hampshire that promises ongoing cooperation in using best management practices to protect and maintain the quality of the lake near NH Route 16 in Tamworth. It's anticipated that this will serve as a model for future partnerships to protect New Hampshire's important natural resources.

The NHDOT's Bureau of Environment is dedicated to addressing a wide range of environmental issues related to transportation, including water quality, air quality, wetlands, historic resources, wildlife, archeological sites and farmlands.

"Clearly we have changed the way we do business in New Hampshire," Commissioner Murray says. "Our 2,400 employees who have chosen to live and work in this great state are committed to protecting New Hampshire's environment while building and maintaining the best transportation system possible."

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